AN

ELEGY

On the much lamented Death of that Eminent and Faithful Servant of Chriſt, and laborious Miniſter of the Goſpel,

JOHN GILL, D. D.

Who changed this Life for a glorious and immortal one, October 14, 1771. Aged 74.

YE learned muſes, now exert your ſkill,
And tell the ſorrows of our Iſrael!
As great a man this age did ever ſhow
Is ſnatched hence, unto our grief and woe.
Since the apoſtles days few did appear
To open ſcripture truths ſo very clear,
As this great Champion, who, with courage bold,
Struck at all error, whoe'er it did hold.
But now this man of war from us is gone,
Mourn, Zion, mourn, and put your ſackcloth on!
He fought our battles, and did win the field,
And to our enemies did never yield.
His very name doth pierce me to the heart,
To think that we with the Great GILL muſt part!
He always fed us here with living bread,
For two and fifty years we have been fed.
My heart doth pant, my ſoul doth tremble too,
For in this day there are but very few,
But mix the chaff with the pureſt wheat,
So that the ſaints have little elſe to eat;
But the Great GILL did preach up ſov'reign grace,
Which did in all his holy works take place;
Eternal truths he did aſſert moſt free,
Which was in God's own thoughts eternally.
He ſhew'd that theſe was maniteſt in time,
Which proved him to be a great divine;
The Trinity he boldly did maintain,
And fully prov'd that there was Three in One.
No human ſoul was at the counſel board
When the creation or the world was form'd,
Or Adam made a holy creature pure,
But God's eternal Son, he then was there.
The great Redeemer, the begotten Son,
Who then was Surety for his creature man;
As he was God he had all things in view,
And knew what man would bring himſelf into.
This great momentous truth GILL did explain,
With many more hereafter we ſhall name;
O read his Body of Divinity,
Where he electing love doth there diſplay,
That we where choſe in Chriſt eternally.
God was not mov'd by any thing in us,
For as in Adam we muſt bear the curſe;
Had not Love choſe us in our glorious Head,
Who then ſtood Surety in our room and ſtead;
And ſaid to juſtice, 'Hold thy hand, for I
Will pay thy debt, and in their ſtead will die.'
And in our Head we then was juſtify'd;
Tho' men in common do this truth deride.
But as our Huſband cleared off the ſcore,
The law nor juſtice can demand no more;
And our adoption was of the ſame date,
Before the world or Adam was create.
Becauſe we're ſons, he calls us by his grace,
Which ſhews we're ſons before this work took place;
The Father lov'd us then as in his Son,
Before the world was made, or time begun.
Theſe were the truths this noble warrior taught:
Arminian tenets he did ſet at nought:
Proving from ſcripture, we can nothing do,
Till by the Spirit we are born a new.
Sabellian ſchemes with zeal he did defy,
That robs the Son of his divinity;
Which ſay, The Father took a human form,
And the eternal Son they hold in ſcorn.
T' Socinian errors he brings forth his ſling,
Who robs us of Chriſt's glorious ſuffering;
But with his ſtone and ſling he brings them down,
And then on Jeſus he doth ſet the crown.
He did oppoſe the Arian hereſy,
Who ſay, Three Gods are in the Trinity;
The one ſuperior, the others are not ſo,
Only as magiſtrates are here below.
The Unitarian alſo doth deny
Three glorious Perſons in the Trinity;
'Tis only names and characters in one,
No God the Spirit, nor no God the Son.
With all theſe heretics the valiant GILL
Did fight, did conquer with unequal ſkill;
To God the Spirit he did honour give,
Who worketh faith in us for to receive,
And by his pow'r enables to believe.
He ſhews our right and title to the ſame,
And gives us faith theſe ancient truths to claim;
He lets us ſee we have Chriſt's righteouſneſs,
That fully covers all our nakedneſs;
That Jeſus' blood hath waſh'd us from all ſtain,
That law and juſtice hath no legal claim.
Theſe are the truths this heav'nly man hath taught,
But, to our grief, he to the duſt is brought.
In after ages when his works are ſeen,
They can't believe one man compos'd the ſame.
With ſo much learning and ſuch heav'nly ſkill,
Sure never was a greater man than GILL;
Except them moved by the heav'nly Dove,
Immediately anointed from above.
He liv'd the truth, as well the truth did prize,
Now he's aſcended far above the ſkies.
His converſation here was ever bright,
Now with his Lord, he's cloath'd in garments white.
While he lay on a bed of languiſhing,
The truths he preach'd to him did comfort bring;
His ſprings of joy did ſweetly flow from them:
No murmuring was heard in all his pain,
Nor of the hand of God did he complain;
Now with the ſaints loud Hallelujahs ſing,
Eternal praiſes to his God and King!
While miniſters and people here lament
The loſs of ſuch a uſeful inſtrument.
His works will prove he was a great divine,
In after ages they will brightly ſhine:
The church, in which his paſt'ral work was done,
Doth greatly mourn the loſs of ſuch a one;
T' many of them he was a father dear,
And others by him they eſtabliſh'd were,
Which cauſed each t' pour out many a tear.
His family muſt now be grieved ſore,
Their father and their friend to ſee no more.
O may they find they have a father dear,
Who never changeth in his love and care,
Until he brings them to the realms above,
To join in ſongs of everlaſting love!
May Zion's mourners with one voice unite
To ſupplicate their King both day and night,
That he would ſend us ſuch a man of might!

EPITAPH.

ALL you that to this tomb draw near,
Come with a mournful eye;
A great Ambaſſador lies here,
One of great dignity!

But now he's gone unto his King,
In triumph for to reign;
And everlaſting ſongs doth ſing,
'Till Chriſt ſhall come again,

To reign on earth a thouſand years,
The bodies rais'd ſhall be;
Then ſhall be waſh'd away all tears,
To all eternity.

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